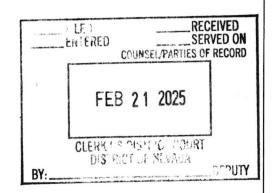
1 SUE FAHAMI Acting United States Attorney 2 District of Nevada Nevada Bar Number 5634 ROBERT KNIEF 3 Assistant United States Attorney 501 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Suite 1100 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 5 (702) 388-6336 Robert.Knief@usdoj.gov 6 Attorneys for the United States



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

No. 2:24-cr-0175-RFB-MDC

Plaintiff,

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IDRISS QIBAA,

Defendant.

Plea Agreement for Defendant Idriss Qibaa Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11

This plea agreement between Idriss Qibaa ("defendant") and the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Nevada (the "USAO") sets forth the parties' agreement regarding the criminal charges referenced herein and the applicable sentences, fines, restitution, and forfeiture in the above-captioned case. This agreement binds only defendant and the USAO and does not bind the district court, the U.S. Probation Office, or any other federal, state, local, or foreign prosecuting, enforcement, administrative, or regulatory authorities. This agreement does not prohibit the USAO or any agency or third party from seeking any other civil or administrative remedies, including administrative forfeiture or civil forfeiture *in rem* actions, directly or indirectly against defendant or defendant's property.

This agreement becomes effective upon signature by defendant, defendant's counsel, and an Assistant United States Attorney.

I. DEFENDANT'S OBLIGATIONS

- 1. Defendant agrees to give up the right to indictment by a grand jury and, at the earliest opportunity requested by the USAO and provided by the Court, appear and plead guilty to a six-count superseding information in the form attached to this agreement as Exhibit A or a substantially similar form, which charges defendant with *Extortion* in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1951(Count 1); *Money Laundering* in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1957 (Counts Two and Three); *Stalking* in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2261A(2)(B) (Count Four); and *Interstate Communications Containing Threats* in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 875(c) (Counts Five and Six);
 - a. Stipulate to the facts agreed to in this agreement;
 - b. Abide by all agreements regarding sentencing contained in this agreement;
 - c. Not seek to withdraw defendant's guilty pleas once they are entered;
- d. Not request release or seek to modify the existing pre-trial order of detention;
- e. Appear for all court appearances, surrender as ordered for service of sentence, obey all conditions of any bond, and obey any other ongoing court order in this matter;
 - f. Not commit any federal, state, or local crime;
- g. Be truthful at all times with the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Offices and the Court;
- h. Before and after sentencing, upon request by the Court, the USAO, or the Probation Office, provide accurate and complete financial information, submit sworn statements, and/or give depositions under oath concerning defendant's assets and defendant's ability to pay. As part of the required disclosure, defendant agrees to provide any and all financial information and authorizations requested by the Probation Office for preparation of the Presentence Report. Defendant further agrees that, upon filing of this agreement, the USAO is

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authorized to obtain defendant's credit report. Defendant will also complete a financial form provided by the USAO, to include all supporting documentation, and return it to the USAO within ten days from entry of the plea. Defendant agrees that the district court may enter any order necessary to effectuate or facilitate disclosure of defendant's financial information; and

To facilitate payment of any fine, restitution, or assessment, surrender i. assets defendant obtained directly or indirectly as a result of defendant's crimes. Defendant agrees to voluntarily release funds and property under defendant's control or in which defendant has any property interest, before and after sentencing, to pay any fine or restitution identified in this agreement, agreed to by the parties, or ordered by the Court.

II. THE USAO'S OBLIGATIONS

- 2. The USAO agrees to:
 - Stipulate to facts agreed to in this agreement; a.
 - Abide by all agreements regarding sentencing contained in this agreement; b.
- At sentencing, provided that defendant demonstrates an acceptance of responsibility for the offenses up to and including the time of sentencing, recommend a two-level reduction in the applicable sentencing guidelines offense level, pursuant to USSG § 3E1.1, and move for an additional one-level reduction if available under that section; and
- Not bring any additional charges against defendant arising out of the đ. investigation in the District of Nevada which culminated in this agreement and based on conduct known to the USAO.

III. ELEMENTS OF THE OFFENSES

Count One: The elements of Extortion under 18 U.S.C. § 1951(a) are as follows: 3. The defendant induced C.H. to part with property by the wrongful use of First: actual or threatened force, violence, or fear;

1	Second:	The defendant obtained the property with C.H.'s consent;	
2	Third:	The defendant acted with the intent to obtain the property; and	
3	Fourth:	Commerce from one state to another was affected in some way.	
4	See Ninth Circuit M	odel Criminal Jury Instruction 9.5 (2022 ed.).	
5	4. <u>Coun</u>	ts Two and Three: The elements of Money Laundering under 18 U.S.C. §	
6	1957 are as follows:		
7	<u>First</u> :	The defendant knowingly engaged in a monetary transaction;	
8	Second:	The defendant knew the transaction involved criminally derived property;	
9	Third:	The property had a value greater than \$10,000;	
10	Fourth:	The property was, in fact, derived from extortion as charged in Count One	
11		of the Superseding Information; and	
12	<u>Fifth</u> :	The transaction occurred in the United States.	
	See Ninth Circuit Model Criminal Jury Instruction 18.7 (2022 ed.).		
13	5. <u>Coun</u>	t Four: The elements of Stalking under 18 U.S.C. § 2261A(2)(B) are as	
14	follows:		
15	<u>First</u> :	The defendant traveled across a state line with the intent to injure or	
16		harass another person; and	
17	Second:	In the course of, or as a result of, such travel, the defendant placed that	
18		person in reasonable fear of the death of, or the serious bodily injury to	
19		that person or a member of that person's immediate family.	
20	<u>See 18 U</u> .S.C. § 2261	IA(2)(B).	
21	6. Counts Five and Six: The elements of Interstate Communications Containing a		
22	Threat to Injure under 18 U.S.C. § 875(c) are as follows:		
23	<u>First</u> :	The defendant knowingly transmitted in interstate commerce text messages	
24		containing a threat to injure another; and	
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Second: Such text messages were transmitted for the purpose of issuing a threat, or with knowledge that the text messages would be viewed as a threat.

See Ninth Circuit Model Criminal Jury Instruction 8.13 (2022 ed.)

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF CONVICTION

7. Maximum Statutory Penalties:

- a. Defendant understands that the statutory maximum sentence the district court can impose for a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1951(a) as charged in Count.One, is: 20 years imprisonment; a three-year period of supervised release; a fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or gross loss resulting from the offense, whichever is greatest; and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.
- b. Defendant understands that the statutory maximum sentence the district court can impose for each violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1957 as charged in Counts Two and Three, is: 10 years imprisonment; a three-year period of supervised release; a fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or gross loss resulting from the offenses, whichever is greatest; and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.
- c. Defendant understands that the statutory maximum sentence the district court can impose for a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2261A(2)(B) as charged in Count Four, is: 5 years imprisonment; a three-year period of supervised release; a fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or gross loss resulting from the offense, whichever is greatest; and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.
- d. Defendant understands that the statutory maximum sentence the district court can impose for each violation of 18 U.S.C. § 875(c) as charged in Counts Five and Six is: 5 years imprisonment; a three-year period of supervised release; a fine of \$250,000 or twice the

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gross gain or gross loss resulting from the offenses, whichever is greatest; and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.

- Defendant understands, therefore, that the total maximum sentence for all offenses to which defendant is pleading guilty is: 55 years imprisonment; an 18-year period of supervised release; a fine of \$1,500,000 or twice the gross gain or gross loss resulting from the offenses, whichever is greatest; and a mandatory special assessment of \$600.
- Parole Abolished: Defendant acknowledges that defendant's prison sentence 7. cannot be shortened by early release on parole because parole has been abolished.
- Supervised Release: Defendant understands that supervised release is a period of 8. time following imprisonment during which defendant will be subject to various restrictions and requirements. Defendant understands that if defendant violates one or more of the conditions of any supervised release imposed, defendant may be returned to prison for all or part of the term of supervised release authorized by statute for the offenses that resulted in the term of supervised release, which could result in defendant serving a total term of imprisonment greater than the statutory maximum stated above.
- Factors under 18 U.S.C. § 3553: Defendant understands that the district court 9. must consider the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) in determining defendant's sentence. However, the statutory maximum sentence limits the district court's discretion in determining defendant's sentence.
- Potential Collateral Consequences of Conviction: Defendant understands that, by 10. pleading guilty, defendant may be giving up valuable government benefits and valuable civic rights, such as the right to vote, the right to possess a firearm, the right to hold office, and the right to serve on a jury. Defendant understands that once the district court accepts defendant's guilty pleas, it will be a federal felony for defendant to possess a firearm or ammunition.

Defendant understands that the conviction in this case may also subject defendant to various other collateral consequences, including but not limited to revocation of probation, parole, or supervised release in another case and suspension or revocation of a professional license.

Defendant understands that unanticipated collateral consequences will not serve as grounds to withdraw defendant's guilty pleas.

V. FACTUAL BASIS

11. Defendant admits that defendant is, in fact, guilty of the offenses to which defendant is agreeing to plead guilty. Defendant acknowledges that if defendant elected to go to trial instead of pleading guilty, the USAO could prove defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. Defendant further acknowledges that defendant's admissions and declarations of fact set forth below satisfy every element of the charged offenses. Defendant waives any potential future claim that the facts defendant admitted below are insufficient to satisfy the elements of the charged offenses. Defendant admits and declares under penalty of perjury that the facts set forth below are true and correct:

On or about April 29, 2024, the defendant induced C.H. to part with \$200,000 by the wrongful use of actual or threatened force, violence, or fear. The defendant obtained the property with C.H.'s consent and acted with the intent to obtain the \$200,000. As a result of these actions, commerce from one state to another was affected in some way.

On or about March 7 and 8, 2024, the defendant knowingly engaged in monetary transactions he knew involved criminally derived property of a value greater than \$10,000. Those transactions, in fact, involved funds derived from extortion as charged in Count One of this Superseding Information.

Beginning on or about June of 2024 and continuing until July 2024, the defendant traveled across a state line with the intent to injure or harass C.H. and M.P. and in the course

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of, or as a result of, such travel, the defendant placed those persons in reasonable fear of the death of, or the serious bodily injury to that person or a member of that person's immediate family.

On or about July 19, 2024, the defendant knowingly transmitted in interstate commerce text messages containing a threat to injure T.C. and members of T.C.'s family and such texts were transmitted for the purpose of issuing a threat, or with knowledge that the texts would be viewed as a threat.

On or about July 24, 2024, the defendant knowingly transmitted in interstate commerce text messages containing a threat to injure K.D. and such texts were transmitted for the purpose of issuing a threat, or with knowledge that the texts would be viewed as a threat.

All of the above activity occurred in whole or part in the State and Federal District of Nevada.

VI. SENTENCING FACTORS

- 12. <u>Discretionary Nature of Sentencing Guidelines</u>: Defendant understands that in determining defendant's sentence, the district court is required to calculate the applicable sentencing guidelines range and to consider that range, possible departures under the sentencing guidelines, and the other sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). Defendant understands that the sentencing guidelines are advisory only, that defendant cannot have any expectation of receiving a sentence within the calculated sentencing guidelines range, and that after considering the sentencing guidelines and the other § 3553(a) factors, the district court will be free to exercise its discretion to impose any sentence it finds appropriate up to the maximum set by statute for the crimes of conviction.
- 13. Offense Level Calculations: The parties jointly agree and stipulate that, in calculating defendant's advisory guidelines sentencing range, the Court should use the following base offense level and adjustments; acknowledge that these stipulations do not bind the district

1	court; and agree that they will not seek to apply or advocate for the use of any other base offense			
2	level(s) or any other specific offense characteristics, enhancements, or reductions in calculating			
3	the advisory guidelines range:			
4	Count One	•		
5	Base Offense Level USSG § 2B3.2(a):	18		
6	Threat of Bodily Injury USSG § 2B3.2(b)(1):	+2		
7	Demand > \$20,000 USSG § 2B3.2(b)(2):	<u>+2</u>		
8	Adjusted Offense Level:	22		
9	Counts Two and Three			
10	Base Offense Level USSG § 2S1.1(a)(1):	22		
11	§ 1957 Conviction USSG § 2S1.1(b)(2)(a):	<u>+1</u>		
12	Adjusted Offense Level:	23		
13	County Four			
14	Base Offense Level USSG § 2A6.1(a)(1):	12		
15	Multiple Threats USSG § 2A6.1(b)(2):	<u>+2</u>		
16	Adjusted Offense Level:	14		
17	Counts Five and Six			
18	Base Offense Level USSG § 2A6.1(a)(1):	12		
19	Conduct of Intent to Carry Out § 2A6.1(b)(1):	+6		
20	Multiple Threats § 2A6.1(b)(2):	<u>+2</u>		
21	Adjusted Offense Level:	20		
22	Grouping Adjustment § 3D1.4:	+2		
23	Final Offense Level	25		
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Reduction for Acceptance of Responsibility: Under USSG § 3E1.1(a), the USAO 14. will recommend that defendant receive a two-level downward adjustment for acceptance of responsibility unless defendant (a) fails to truthfully admit facts establishing a factual basis for the guilty pleas when defendant enters the pleas; (b) fails to truthfully admit facts establishing the amount of restitution owed when defendant enters the guilty pleas; (c) fails to truthfully admit facts establishing the forfeiture allegations when defendant enters the guilty pleas; (d) provides false or misleading information to the USAO, the Court, Pretrial Services, or the Probation Office; (e) denies involvement in the offenses or provides conflicting statements regarding defendant's involvement or falsely denies or frivolously contests conduct relevant to the offenses; (f) attempts to withdraw defendant's guilty pleas; (g) commits or attempts to commit any crime;

Under USSG § 3E1.1(b), if the district court determines that defendant's total offense level before operation of § 3E1.1(a) is 16 or higher, and if the USAO recommends a two-level downward adjustment pursuant to the preceding paragraph, the USAO will move for an additional one-level downward adjustment for acceptance of responsibility before sentencing because defendant communicated defendant's decision to plead guilty in a timely manner that enabled the USAO to avoid preparing for trial and to efficiently allocate its resources.

(h) fails to appear in court; or (i) violates the conditions of pretrial release.

- Criminal History Category: Defendant acknowledges that the district court may 15. base defendant's sentence in part on defendant's criminal record or criminal history. The district court will determine defendant's criminal history category under the sentencing guidelines.
- Additional Sentencing Information: The stipulated sentencing guidelines 16. calculations are based on information now known to the parties. Defendant understands that both defendant and the USAO are free to (a) supplement the facts in this agreement by supplying relevant information to the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Offices and the district court

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regarding the nature, scope, and extent of defendant's criminal conduct and any aggravating or mitigating facts or circumstances; and (b) correct any and all factual misstatements relating to the district court's sentencing guidelines calculations and determination of sentence. While this paragraph permits both the USAO and defendant to submit full and complete factual information to the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Offices and the district court, even if that factual information may be viewed as inconsistent with the facts agreed to in this agreement, this paragraph does not affect defendant's and the USAO's obligations not to contest the facts agreed to in this agreement. Good faith efforts to provide truthful information or to correct factual misstatements shall not be grounds for defendant to withdraw defendant's guilty pleas.

Defendant acknowledges that the U.S. Probation Office may calculate the sentencing guidelines differently and may rely on additional information it obtains through its investigation. Defendant also acknowledges that the district court may rely on this and other additional information as it calculates the sentencing guidelines range and makes other sentencing determinations, and the district court's reliance on such information shall not be grounds for defendant to withdraw defendant's guilty pleas.

VII. POSITIONS REGARDING SENTENCING

- The USAO will recommend that the district court sentence defendant within the 17. advisory guideline range as determined by the district court. Defendant may argue for a downward variance pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3553.
- Defendant acknowledges that the district court does not have to follow the 18. recommendation of either party.
- Notwithstanding its agreement to recommend a sentence as described above, the 19. USAO reserves its right to defend any lawfully imposed sentence on appeal or in any postconviction litigation.

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If defendant commits any act that results in the Court finding that defendant is 20. not entitled to a downward adjustment for acceptance of responsibility, the USAO is entitled to argue for any sentence it deems appropriate under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). In any such event, Defendant remains bound by the provisions of this agreement and shall not have the right to withdraw defendant's guilty pleas.

VIII. WAIVER OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

- Defendant understands that by pleading guilty, defendant gives up the following 21. rights:
 - The right to persist in a plea of not guilty; a.
 - The right to a speedy and public trial by jury; b.
- The right to be represented by counsel—and if necessary, have the court C. appoint counsel—at trial. Defendant understands, however, that, defendant retains the right to be represented by counsel—and if necessary, have the court appoint counsel—at every other stage of the proceeding;
- The right to be presumed innocent and to have the burden of proof placed d. on the USAO to prove defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt;
 - The right to confront and cross-examine witnesses against defendant; e.
- The right to testify and to present evidence in opposition to the charges, f. including the right to compel the attendance of witnesses to testify;
- The right not to be compelled to testify, and, if defendant chose not to g. testify or present evidence, to have that choice not be used against defendant; and
- The right to pursue any affirmative defenses; Fourth Amendment or Fifth h. Amendment claims; any other pretrial motions that have been or could have been filed; and challenges to any adverse pre-trial rulings.

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IX. WAIVER OF APPELLATE RIGHTS

- Waiver of Appellate Rights: Defendant knowingly and expressly waives the right 22. to appeal: (a) any sentence imposed within or below the applicable Sentencing Guideline range as determined by the district court; (b) the manner in which the district court determined that sentence on the grounds set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3742; (c) any other aspect of the conviction, including but not limited to the constitutionality of the statutes of conviction; and (d) any other aspect of the sentence, including but not limited to the constitutionality of any mandatory or standard conditions of supervised release; the denial of any motion for early termination of supervised release; and any order of restitution or forfeiture.
- 23. Defendant reserves only the right to appeal any portion of the sentence that is an upward departure or variance from the applicable Sentencing Guideline range as determined by the district court.
- Waiver of Post-Conviction Rights: Defendant also knowingly and expressly 24. waives all collateral challenges, including any claims under 28 U.S.C. § 2255, to defendant's conviction, sentence, and the procedure by which the district court adjudicated guilt and imposed sentence, except non-waivable claims of ineffective assistance of counsel.
- Preservation of Evidence: Defendant acknowledges that the USAO and the 25. agencies investigating this case are not obligated or required to preserve any evidence obtained in the investigation of this case.

XII. BREACH OF AGREEMENT

Defendant agrees that if, at any time after this agreement becomes effective, 26. defendant knowingly violates or fails to perform any of defendant's obligations under this agreement ("a breach"), the USAO may declare this agreement breached. All of defendant's obligations are material, a single breach of this agreement is sufficient for the USAO to declare a breach, and defendant shall not be deemed to have cured a breach without the express agreement of the USAO in writing. If the USAO declares this agreement breached, and the district court finds such a breach to have occurred, then: (a) if defendant has previously entered [a] guilty pleas pursuant to this agreement, defendant will remain bound by the provisions of this agreement and will not be able to withdraw the guilty pleas; and (b) the USAO will be relieved of all its obligations under this agreement.

- 27. Following the Court's finding of a knowing breach of this agreement by defendant, should the USAO choose to pursue any charge that was either dismissed or not filed as a result of this agreement, or that the government agreed to move to dismiss at sentencing as part of this agreement, then:
- a. Defendant agrees that any applicable statute of limitations is tolled between the date of defendant's signing of this agreement and the filing commencing any such action.
- b. Defendant waives and gives up all defenses based on the statute of limitations, any claim of pre-indictment delay, or any speedy trial claim with respect to any such action, except to the extent that such defenses existed as of the date of defendant's signing this agreement.
- c. Defendant agrees that: (i) any statements made by defendant, under oath, at the guilty plea hearing (if such a hearing occurred prior to the breach); (ii) the agreed to factual basis statement in this agreement; and (iii) any evidence derived from such statements, shall be admissible against defendant in any such action against defendant, and defendant waives and gives up any claim under the United States Constitution, any statute, Federal Rule of Evidence 410, Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(f), or any other federal rule, that the statements or any evidence derived from the statements should be suppressed or are inadmissible.

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XIII. COURT AND UNITED STATES PROBATION AND PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICE NOT PARTIES

- Defendant understands that the Court and the U.S. Probation and Pretrial 28. Services Office are not parties to this agreement and need not accept any of the USAO's sentencing recommendations or the parties' agreements to facts or sentencing factors.
- 29. Defendant understands that both defendant and the USAO are free to argue on appeal and collateral review that the district court's sentencing guidelines calculations and the sentence it chooses to impose are not error.
- Defendant understands that even if the district court ignores any sentencing 30. recommendation, finds facts or reaches conclusions different from those agreed to by the parties, or imposes any sentence up to the maximum established by statute, defendant cannot, for that reason, withdraw defendant's guilty pleas, and defendant will remain bound to fulfill all defendant's obligations under this agreement. Defendant understands that no one—not the prosecutor, defendant's attorney, or the Court—can make a binding prediction or promise regarding the sentence defendant will receive, except that it will be within the statutory maximum.

XIV. ADDITIONAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 31. Defendant acknowledges that:
- Defendant read this agreement and defendant understands its terms and conditions.
- Defendant had adequate time to discuss this case, the evidence, and this b. agreement with defendant's attorney.
- Defendant carefully and thoroughly discussed all terms of this agreement C. with defendant's attorney.

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- d. Defendant understands the terms of this agreement and voluntarily agrees to those terms.
- e. Defendant has discussed with defendant's attorney the following: the evidence; defendant's rights; possible pretrial motions that might be filed; possible defenses that might be asserted either prior to or at trial; the sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a); the relevant sentencing guidelines provisions; and consequences of entering into this agreement.
- f. The representations contained in this agreement are true and correct, including the factual basis for defendant's offenses set forth in this agreement.
- g. Defendant was not under the influence of any alcohol, drug, or medicine that would impair defendant's ability to understand the agreement when defendant considered signing this agreement and when defendant signed it.
- 32. Defendant understands that defendant alone decides whether to plead guilty or go to trial and acknowledges that defendant has decided to enter defendant's guilty pleas knowing of the charges brought against defendant, defendant's possible defenses, and the benefits and possible detriments of proceeding to trial.
- 33. Defendant understands that no promises, understandings, or agreements other than those set forth in this agreement have been made or implied by defendant, defendant's attorney, or the USAO, and no additional promises, agreements, or conditions shall have any force or effect unless set forth in writing and signed by all parties or confirmed on the record before the district court.
- 34. Defendant acknowledges that defendant decided to plead guilty voluntarily and that no one threatened, coerced, or forced defendant to enter into this agreement.

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Defendant is satisfied with the representation of defendant's attorney, and 35. defendant is pleading guilty because defendant is guilty of the charges and chooses to take advantage of the promises set forth in this agreement and for no other reason.

XV. PLEA AGREEMENT PART OF THE GUILTY PLEA HEARING

The parties agree that this agreement will be considered part of the record of 36. defendant's guilty plea hearing as if the entire agreement had been read into the record of the proceeding.

AGREED AND ACCEPTED

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA

SUE FAHAMI Acting United States Attorne

Assistant United States Attorney

Defendant

BEN NEMEC

Attorney for Defendant

26 FEB 25 Date 2/6/2028

2/6/2025